GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:135
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Seed Banks
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government owned seed banks which are operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to create and promote seed banks at District/Block/Mandal level;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the easy accessibility of seed banks to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the details of the success/ failure of the programme in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 135 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25TH JULY, 2017.

(a): There are 22 seed banks functioning in the country including one at the national level with National Seeds Corporation and 21 in different States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These seed banks supply seeds to the farmers during contingency situations like flood, drought etc.
(b) & (c): At present, there is no proposal with the Government to open new seed banks at District/Block/Mandal level.

(d) & (e): A study has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta in November, 2007 for evaluation of the Central Sector Scheme on Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds which included establishment and maintenance of Seed Banks. The report recommended that the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare identify risk prone areas and calculate total seed requirement to cater to exigencies and earmark places in relatively risk free zone taking into account connectivity factors for setting up of seed banks. The report further suggested that the network of Seed Banks should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare through a single agency like National Seed Corporation or State Department of Agriculture, and that the State Seed Corporations act as nodes in the management of the seed banks in the country. The State Governments have been reserving quantities of seed every year as per their assessment of requirements in the event of natural calamities.
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